

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Continues Holiday Tradition with Christmas Chorale Vespers Concert

7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, 2006

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Just weeks before Christmas Day, the University of Saint Mary Concert Chorale, Brass Choir, Bell Choir and Orchestra will come together for a performance to celebrate the season. The occasion—the annual Christmas Chorale Vespers Concert, a tradition dating back to 1978.

Christmas Vespers, presented by the USM Fine Arts--Music Department, starts at 7 p.m. inside Annunciation Chapel. Vespers creates a unique blend of all USM's student performers into one hour-long Christmas concert that includes traditional carols in English, French, and German. There is no admission charge, but Christmas Vespers draws a large crowd so please plan accordingly. A reception immediately follows the concert inside Saint Joseph Dining Hall.

In addition to traditional carols, the student performers will feature selections from Mozart's *Litany of the Blessed Virgin*, which he wrote at the age of fifteen. Featured soloists will include junior soprano Ruthie Dessert, from Leavenworth, senior mezzo-soprano Jesan Barnes, from Omaha, Neb., senior-graduate student, Ryan Harris, from Kansas City, Kan., senior bass Taylor Gillespie, from Pueblo, Colo., and junior soprano Vanessa Campagna, from Kansas City, Mo.

According to Dr. William Krusemark, professor of music, Vespers is more than just a typical concert—it's a tradition that can hopefully help listeners comprehend the true meaning of Christmas. "Vespers allows the listener to enter into the true spirit of the Christmas season in the beautiful venue of Annunciation Chapel," he said. "This is a tradition that we started back in 1978, and it continues to be one of the more moving performances we do each year."

Krusemark and Assistant Professor of Music Freda Proctor will lead the ensemble.

For more information about Vespers, call 913-682-5151 extension 6460. Annunciation Chapel is located on the south side of the USM campus, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

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